The People's Korea

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President Kim Il Sung Receives Thai FM

President Kim Il Sung on Aug. 23 received Royal Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila and his entourage. (Rodong Sinmun, Aug. 24)

President Kim Il Sung on Aug. 23 received Royal Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila and his entourage on an official goodwill visit to the DPRK.

Present on the occasion were Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam, Minister of Foreign Trade Choe Jong Gun and Royal Thai Ambassador to Korea Tej Bunnag.

The DPRK President had a talk with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the KCNA reported.

Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila presented a gift to President Kim Il Sung. He also presented a gift to Mr. Kim Jong Il, Member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and Secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Thai Foreign Minister Savetsila and his entourage arrived in Pyongyang on Aug. 21 for a four-day official goodwill visit to the DPRK upon the invitation of the government of the DPRK.

Talks were held on that day between the foreign ministers of the DPRK and Thailand at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

At the talks both sides exchanged views on expanding and developing the friendly and cooperative relations and economic and trade relations between the two countries and a series of matters of mutual concern.

At the talks Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila said the Thai government sincerely hopes that the reunification of Korea would be achieved peacefully free from outside interference. He warmly welcomed the efforts of the Korean people to reunify the country independently.

On Aug. 23, an agreement on founding the joint committee of foreign trade was signed between the governments of the DPRK and the Kingdom of Thailand in Pyongyang.

It was signed by DPRK Minister of Foreign Trade Choe Jong Gun and Royal Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila.

Royal Thai Foreign Minister Savetsila and his party left the DPRK on Aug. 24.

DPRK President Meets Samdech Norodom Sihanouk

President Kim Il Sung on Aug. 25 met Samdech Norodom Sihanouk when the latter paid a farewell call on him prior to his departure, concluding his visit to Korea.

Present on the occasion was Prince Norodom Sihamoni, son of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

President Kim Il Sung had a conversation with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in a cordial atmosphere and arranged a luncheon for him.

DPRK's Arms Reduction Proposal Supported

The Central Committee of the National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Czechoslovak Committee for Solidarity with the Nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America published a statement supporting the DPRK government's statement of July 23, Ceteka reported Aug. 26.

Expressing support for the peaceful initiative of the DPRK government for disarmament, the statement says:

This initiative for relaxing tension on the Korean Peninsula indicates concrete measures for gradual reduction of armed forces in this part of the world.

The proposal for a phased arms reduction in the north and the south and withdrawal of the U.S. forces from south Korea and particularly, the statement of people's Korea on its decision to unilaterally reduce its armed forces by 100,000 by the end of this year make a

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Pyongyang Proposes N-S Preliminary Talks

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK on Aug. 28 made public a statement proposing to open bilateral preliminary talks between the north and the south of Korea first, if Washington and Seoul consider it inconvenient at present to hold vice minister level preliminary talks between the north and the south with U.S. participation to ensure successful north-south foreign ministers' talks with the participation of the U.S. secretary of state.

The statement said, "From the point of this view we propose to have the preliminary talks at Panmunjom at 10 hours of forthcoming Sep. 23 and, to this end, our side will send a four-five member delegation headed by a man of a vice minister level."

Earlier on Aug. 6, Pyongyang proposed to hold talks between the foreign ministers of the north and the south with the participation of the secretary of state of the U.S. in Geneva or in any other convenient place for a solution to the issue of arms reduction and all other problems for detente on the Korean Peninsula.

The Aug. 6 foreign ministry statement also proposed to have preliminary talks of a vice minister level in Panmunjom in order to ensure talks between the foreign ministers of the north and the south involving the U.S.

It further said that it is possible to have two channel bilateral preliminary talks – talks between Pyongyang and Washington and those between Pyongyang and Seoul – if there is any inconvenience on the part of the U.S. and the south Korean side to hold preliminary talks.

The DPRK statement this time came as another major concession on the part

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Pan-American Confab Urges US to Respond to DPRK's Call for Arms Cut

An appeal to the peoples, governments, political parties and organizations of all countries of the world was adopted on Aug. 12 at the Pan-American Conference Supporting Peace in Korea and Its Reunification held in Mexico.

The appeal said that if the U.S. and the south Korean authorities truly want detente and peace, they should positively approach the proposal of the DPRK for a massive phased arms reduction, slash the armed forces of south Korea and withdraw all the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from there.

Noting that today south Korea has

(Continued on page 8)

SR-71 Violations Number 9 in August

The U.S. on Aug. 27 committed aerial espionage against the DPRK by infiltrating the high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance plane SR-71 deep into sky over the territorial waters east of Kosong of the DPRK.

Such aerial espionage numbered nine over the one month.

Nationwide Labor Disputes Shake S. Korea

About 400 workers of Young Chang Akki, a musical instrument manufacturer in Inchon, on Aug. 26 confront riot police on the Kyongin (Seoul-Inchon) Expressway, demanding higher wages and better working conditions. See related stories on pages 4, 5 and 8. (Korea Herald)

Construction in Pyongyang Progressing Successfully

At the moment, in Pyongyang, large-scale development projects in the Mangyongdae district are rapidly taking shape, in preparation for the co-hosting of the 24th Olympic Games in 1988 and the 13th World Youth Festival in 1989, thanks to the energetic guidance of Secretary Kim Jong Il.

The area under construction covers an area of 18 million square metres and includes 14 high rise developments of 42-stories, which will reflect a variety of architectural designs.

Four thousands families have already been housed in the area, although on completion 25,000 families will be provided with homes in the area. Each flat has an area of 110 square metres, and 3-5 rooms to suit the various situations of the occupiers.

The construction is taking place in Kwangbok Street and the Angol Sports Village.

In the Angol Sports Village a football stadium with a combined seating capacity of 50,000 and nine gymnasiums are being built along with the Angol Hotel.

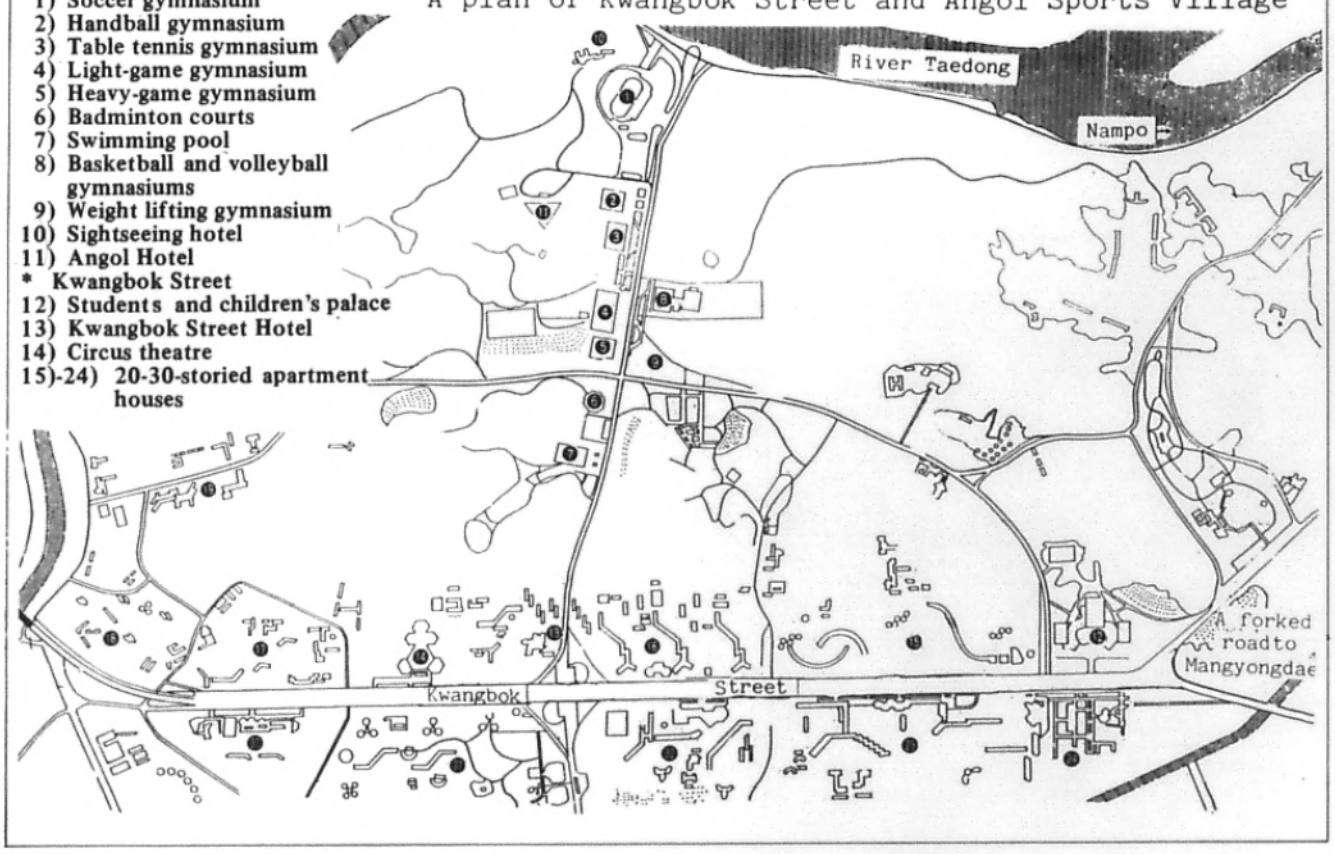
The brick-laying and prefabricated assembly of the Angol Stadium, most of the gymnasiums and the 30-storied hotel have already been completed.

A hundred-metre wide thoroughfare extending over six kilometres, two 100-metre-long bridges, two overpasses and underground pedestrian subways have been built. Underground shopping arcades have also been built. A students' palace, a circus and other public buildings are at present taking shape.

Here are some photos and a rough sketch to show the developments:

A plan of Kwangbok Street and Angol Sports Village

* Angol Sports Village
1) Soccer gymnasium
2) Handball gymnasium
3) Table tennis gymnasium
4) Light-game gymnasium
5) Heavy-game gymnasium
6) Badminton courts
7) Swimming pool
8) Basketball and volleyball gymnasiums
9) Weight lifting gymnasium
10) Sightseeing hotel
11) Angol Hotel
* Kwangbok Street
12) Students and children's palace
13) Kwangbok Street Hotel
14) Circus theatre
15)-24) 20-30-storied apartment houses



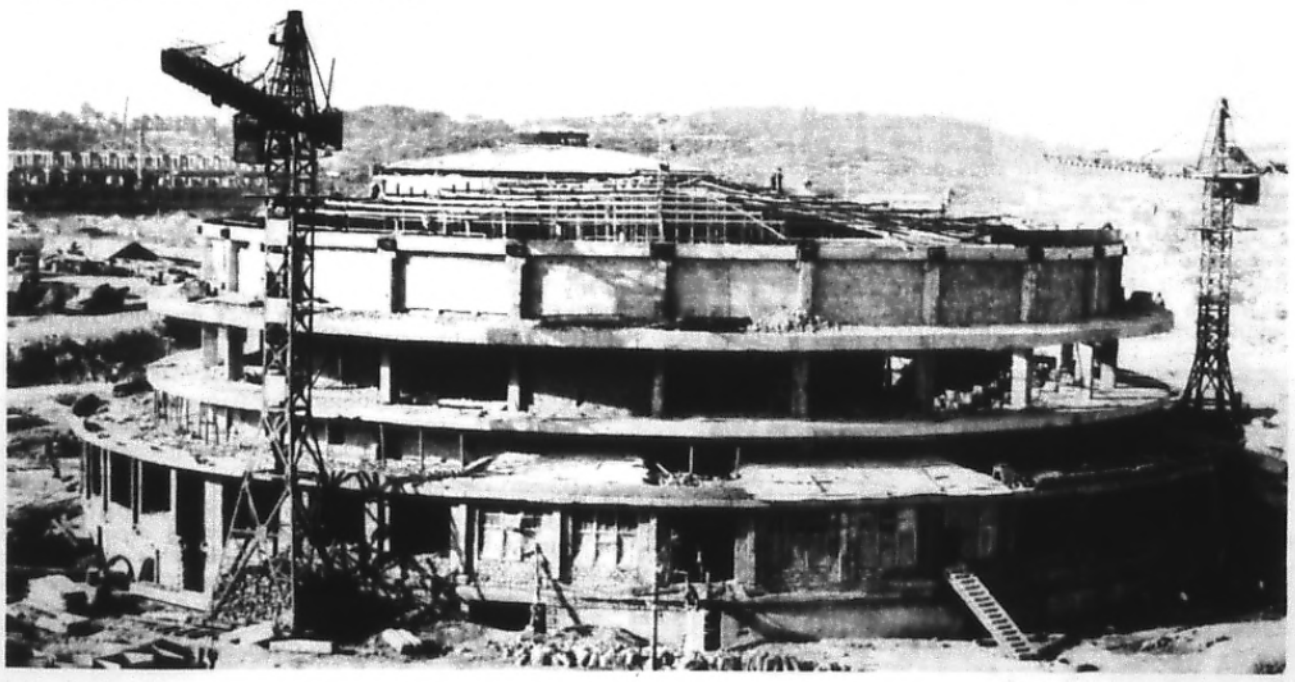
- Constructions scheduled for Kwangbok Street
  - *Students and children's palace (73,000 sq. metres, 2,000 seats)
  - *Circus theatre (50,000 sq. metres, 3,500 seats)
  - *Kwangbok Street Hotel (30,000 sq. metres)
  - *Subway (From Kwangbok Street to a forked road to Mangyongdae, it has four stations)
- The number of households on Kwangbok Street
  - *25,000
- Constructions scheduled for the Angol Sports Village
  - *Swimming pool (20,000 sq. metres, 3,600 seats)
  - *Badminton courts (9,000 sq. metres, 3,000 seats)
  - *Heavy-game gymnasium (12,000 sq. metres, 2,100 seats)
  - *Light-game gymnasium (14,700 sq. metres, 4,000 seats)
  - *Table tennis gymnasium (14,200 sq. metres, 4,000 seats)
  - *Handball gymnasium (8,000 sq. metres, 2,300 seats)
  - *Angol Stadium (25,000 seats)
  - *Weight lifting gymnasium (5,500 sq. metres, 2,000 seats)
  - *Basketball gymnasium (8,000 sq. metres, 2,000 seats)
  - *Volleyball gymnasium (8,000 sq. metres, 2,000 seats)
  - *Angol Hotel (40,000 sq. metres)
  - *Sightseeing hotel (24,000 sq. metres)
- Other construction projects scheduled for Pyongyang
  - *International communication centre (12,000 sq. metres)
  - *Youth theatre (49,000 sq. metres, 3,550 seats)
  - *International cinema (40,000 sq. metres, 3,000-odd seats)
  - *Rungrado Stadium (166,000 sq. metres, 150,000 seats)
  - *Yanggakdo Stadium (52,400 sq. metres, 30,000 seats)
  - *East Pyongyang Great Theatre (2,000 seats)
  - *Pyongyang International Airport (64,500 sq. metres, handling capacity—3 million in a year)
- Area is floor area

  Scale and number of seats are the numbers under plan.

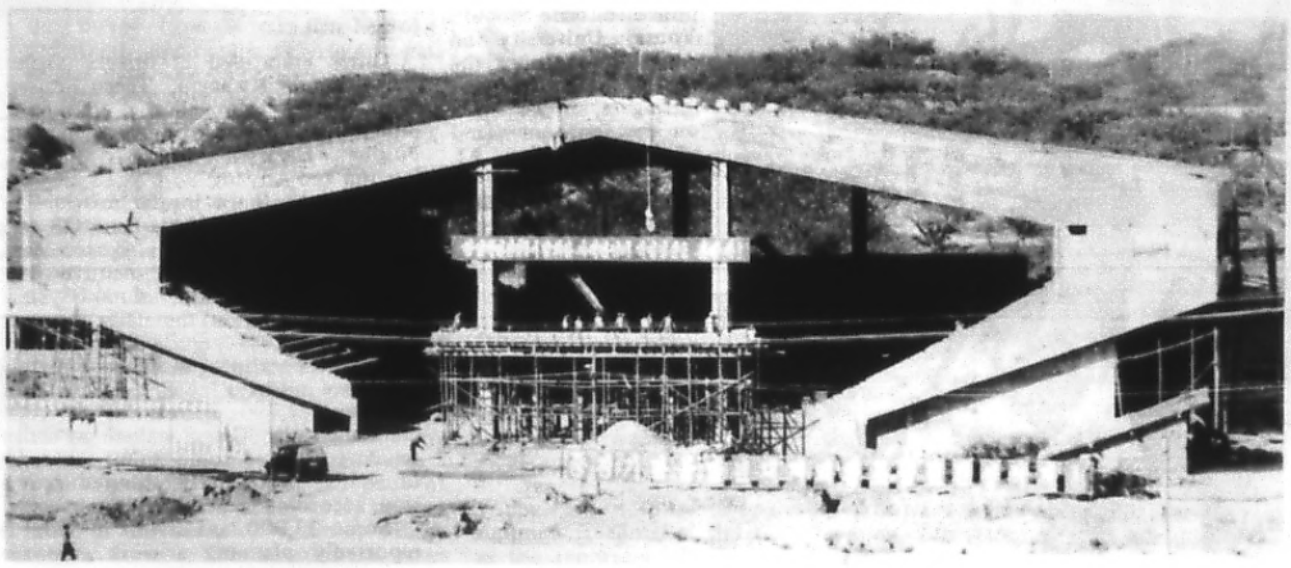
◀ The Angol Hotel which can accommodate more than 1,000 guests

The weight lifting gymnasium taking shape rapidly ▶

Apartment houses at the height of construction ◀



The heavy-game gymnasium of original and unique design ▶



The Angol Stadium with a seating capacity of 25,000 ◀

Labor Strife Becomes Pol. Issue As Worker Sacrificed

Amid unabating labor disputes spreading across south Korea a worker of Daewoo Shipbuilding died on Aug. 22 after being hit in the chest by fragments of a teargas shell which riot police fired to suppress the workers on strike.

The National Coalition for a Democratic Constitution (NCDC), a pan-national democratic united body which was the leading force in the June popular uprising, established a fact-finding committee on Aug. 23 and issued a statement to demand resignation of the present regime, calling for a nationwide memorial service on Aug. 28 to commemorate the worker's death and to denounce police brutality.

The Daewoo worker's death seems to become a focal political issue as the opposition and student forces are planning to massively join in the service to show their firm solidarity with workers.

South Korean prime minister Kim Chung Yul threatened on Aug. 27 that the government was firmly determined to "root out impure leftist forces from our society with all the law-enforcing power we can mobilize from now on", implying a harsh crackdown upon workers and students by using the military force.

A tense situation continues and there is a growing rumor of a "September crisis".

Worker's Death Becomes Pol. Issue

Lee Sok Kyu, 21, a worker of Daewoo Shipbuilding in the southern island of Koje, was sacrificed on Aug. 22 in the labor dispute when riot police fired automatic teargas launchers against more than 3,000 workers who marched toward the Okpo Tourist Hotel where the company president was staying.

They were trying to push their demand for wage hikes and to protest the company's decision to shut down the factory.

Mr. Lee is the first fatal victim since the current labor strife began to south Korea a month ago.

More than 1,000 fellow shipyard workers on Koje Island on Aug. 23 surrounded the hospital where Mr. Lee died in a clash between workers and riot policemen.

Protesting workers, who welded shut the mortuary doors, once prevented police from performing an autopsy because they were afraid the government might conceal the cause of Lee's death.

South Korean newspapers, however, citing a doctor's report, said Mr. Lee died when fragments of a teargas shell pierced his right lung.

In the wake of the establishment on Aug. 23 of a fact-finding committee consisted of eight people from the NCDC and 17 representatives of worker, workers issued a statement declaring that they would continue to fight to demand an open apology from the government and ouster of the home minister.

The NCDC in its statement issued on Aug. 24 demanded that the Chun Doo Hwan regime withdraw to assume responsibility for the incident, saying, "Mr. Lee's death clearly showed how the Roh's June 29 announcement was fraudulent and deceptive."

It also made public an action programme for the nation: 1) mass participation in the nationwide memorial service for Mr. Lee; 2) to set up censer-stands in all branches of the NCDC, labor union and labor organization offices and temples across south Korea; and other items.

Labor Disputes Exceed 2,000 Cases

Labor disputes are continuously spreading to the industrial sectors of transportation, service, circulation and others.

The labor ministry said that 2,207 strikes had occurred by Aug. 26 since the beginning of the year. But 2,083 of these broke out after July 1 when south Korea's strongman Chun Doo Hwan agreed to the democratic reform, it said.

On Aug. 26 alone, 129 labor disputes erupted nationwide.

It also said that 613 strikes were still going on as of Aug. 25.

In the transportation sector, some 400 workers of Korea Air Terminal Service, a sister company of Korea Air Lines, went on strike on Aug. 22, putting forth an eight-point demand including a 50 percent wage hike, extension of the retirement age and a right to form a new independent labor union.

Due to the strike, departures and arrivals of some 172 domestic and international flights were delayed and two outbound cargo flights were cancelled.

Fourteen foreign airlines flying into Seoul were reportedly affected by the strike.

Taxi and bus drivers massively joined strikes.

Cities embroiled in drivers' strikes were Seoul, Kwangju, Taegu, Pusan, Chunchon, Hongchon, Taebaek, Sunchon, Yosu, Wonju, Kangnung, Posong, Hwasun, Taejon, Chongju, Puchon and Anyang.

In the southern insular province of Cheju, some 860 drivers with 28 taxi companies continued a strike on Aug. 27 for the fourth consecutive day, demanding a complete salaried system and a reduction in the daily turnover norm.

Taxi operations were completely paralyzed in Cheju.

About 7,700 drivers at 93 taxi companies in Taegu called a strike on Aug. 24 and some 3,600 taxis out of 4,171 in the city stopped operation, according to news reports.

Some 33,000 taxi drivers in Seoul is reportedly planning a work stoppage in the beginning of September.

Strikes by intra- or inter-city bus drivers continue to sweep small and big cities across south Korea.

In the western port city of Inchon drivers of three out of the total nine bus companies suspended the operation of 303 buses on Aug. 21, demanding pay raises and better working conditions.

About 50 drivers of Shinhan Transportation staged a sit-in at the bus depot in eastern Seoul, for the fourth consecutive day on Aug. 21, demanding bonus increases and better working conditions, while suspending the operation of 46 buses.

About 30 drivers of Seoul Sunghap bus office also staged a sit-in at the firm's office in southeastern Seoul on Aug. 21, protesting against the 10 percent wage hikes scale agreed upon by the union leaders and bus company management on Aug. 20.

Meanwhile, the Tonghae plant of Ssangyong Cement Industrial, stopped production of cement for domestic use on Aug. 19 due to labor dispute at its subcontract firm.

Some 500 workers of the Lotte Hotel, one of the largest hotels in Seoul, went on strike on Aug. 17, demanding a 30 percent wage hike and a 600 percent bonus.

Some 400 workers of the Plaza

(Continued on page 5)

Striking Daewoo Shipyard workers demonstrating on Aug. 23 outside the hospital where a fellow workers died. The young worker had been hit by part of a teargas grenade during labor strife on the island of Koje. (AP)

More than 300 hotel employees stage a protest at Lotte Hotel, one of the largest tourist hotel in Seoul on Aug. 17, demanding higher wages and free trade union. They once occupied the main lobby of the hotel and coffee shops. The protest is the first of its kind of hotel workers. (Reuter)

Students and workers hurl rocks at riot police outside Seoul's Yonsei University on Aug. 23 to protest the death of a worker during a similar clash on the southern island of Koje on Aug. 22. Police fired teargas to disperse more than 2,000 protesters. (Reuter)

The Making of a Striker: Magazine

Follows the full text of an article on south Korea's labor movement which appeared in the Far Eastern Economic Review dated Aug. 27:

The thin white scars on Chung Dong Keun's forearm read *Nodong Undong* – labour movement. "Perhaps it was naive," Chung said, "but I carved this with a razor after our strike to remind myself who I was and what I should live and struggle for." Chung is a slightly built, 33-year-old with a blank expression. He speaks softly, almost in a monotone. Although Chung's experiences have probably made him more radical and politically conscious than many workers, recounting his saga may make the current rash of strikes in South Korea more comprehensible.

"I had always been a model worker. I reported to work 30 minutes early, without pay, to clean around my work area. I did not support workers' grievances. I opposed the strikes some workers wanted." But as he described the bitter strike that he helped organise at an electronics factory his voice became hard.

"On Christmas Eve, 1984, we stayed late, because the company promised they would pay us our October wages [which were two months overdue]. At midnight a foreman told us we would not be paid that night. Along with some of the other older workers, I cried all night in our dormitory, in despair at life and the company."

Three days later the company made a partial payment of the October wages. "The president of the company said we should continue to believe in him and the company. He repeated what he had said many other times – that his dream is that when he makes money he would build a school to educate our children.

"I was still filled with anger and rage. I stood up and said what we needed and wanted was not a school to teach our children. What we wanted was our back wages."

The job Chung found at an electronics company near Seoul in early 1984 was, he said, the best job he ever had. He was hired at the top of the company's pay scale, Won 3,400 (US$4.25) for an eight-hour day – plus compulsory overtime and an annual bonus equal to several months salary. Inexperienced women made as little as Won 2,800 a day. The plant's approximately 200 employees produced fluorescent lights, primarily for export. They worked every day, including Sundays, 78 hours a week. Workers who lived in the company dormitories were required to pay Won 18,000 a month for meals.

After Chung's outburst during the president's speech, he was called into a manager's office. "They said: 'You have been a model worker until now. You are not young [I was 30]. If you are going to continue this way, it would be better for you to leave the factory'."

A group of three workers, which later grew to 20, started a secret discussion group to study their rights. They received no outside help, Chung said.

"By February, the wages for November, December and January had not been paid. The Lunar New Year was coming up. Most of us had no money to visit our parents. We had no choice but to strike."

Management, police and Labour Ministry officials tried to evict the 120 striking workers from the factory, where they held a sit-in, but the workers resisted. After a five-day strike, management agreed to give workers three days off for the New Year holiday, instead of one, and promised to pay back wages.

(Unpaid back wages are a common problem for South Korean workers, especially at small and medium-sized companies. A Seoul newspaper, citing an unpublished government survey of 2,900 companies, reported that 85 firms owed Won 3.7 billion in back wages at the end of 1986. The newspaper also said that more than half the companies surveyed allowed less than a two-day New Year's holiday, though four days are now required by law.)

"The strike was peaceful, but after it was over management and the police began an intensive effort to break up the union," Chung said. "It was mostly intimidation, with foremen swearing at female workers and workers being called into management offices and threatened.

"After the strike, workers worked harder than before. We felt that if profits increased we would get our wages more quickly and maybe even get a wage increase," Chung said.

"In May 1985 our wages for February, March and April still had not been paid. We had another strike, a sit-in in front of the factory that went on for 15 days.

"We had reached this point only after we had tried everything. We had gone to the newspapers, the police, the Ministry of Labour and the company management. We had gone to anyone who would listen to our plight. Only after our strike could we get our back pay." In this second strike, the workers also won the right to have Sundays off and the work week was cut from 78 to 66 hours.

The union was, after some delay, officially recognised, Chung said. A fulltime union official had access to the company's accounting books and the workers were paid on time. "Then in August or September the wages stopped. In December we went on strike again."

Fourteen workers were arrested in December when they held a sit-in at a government office in Seoul. Two of them, including Chung, went to jail as a result. He served four-and-a-halt months in prison. When he was released, the company was no longer in business.

About 50,000 workers from one of the biggest Hyundai companies shouts "Free union and higher wages" during more than 13 km street marching in Ulsan city on Aug. 18. (Reuter)

(Continued from page 4)

Hotel in Seoul followed suit.

The Association of Korean Textile Workers' Union said on Aug. 22 that it had notified the owners of 17 spinning companies nationwide of the workers' demand for a 16.5 percent pay raise.

The association declared that should the demands be rejected by management workers would have no choice but to go on strike on Aug. 31.

About 400 workers of Youngchang Akki, a musical instrument manufacturer in Inchon, occupied the Kyongin Expressway for one hour and a half on Aug. 26, demanding a better pay and better working conditions.

Workers at Bayer Pharma Korea, a joint venture with Bayer of West Germany, went on a strike to demand a 20 percent wage increase and dismissal of three of the four West German vice presidents.

Oppositions & Students to Join Workers

About 100 workers and students who gathered at Seoul's Yonsei University to protest the Daewoo worker's death scuffled with riot police at the campus entrance on Aug. 23, after holding a joint on-campus protest rally.

The protesters chanted slogans and carried banners including one reading "Let's take revenge for the death of Lee Sok Kyu".

Students vowed to strengthen links with labor despite government threats to use a strong force against "outsiders' agitation" of labor disputes.

Meanwhile, the NCDC called on south Korea's 10 million workers to call a general strike on the day Mr. Lee Sok Kyu will be buried.

Press Guidelines Remain in Force

Here are excerpts from an article carried by U.S. News & World Report on Aug. 10:

After the government's apparent surrender to surging demands for change, South Korea is in transition. But to what? The next six months should tell whether this fiercely anti-Communist, pro-Western nation makes a genuine move toward democracy. Nothing will be more telling than the struggle for a free press.

The military-based government has long stifled the media. Yet so far there is little evidence that the resurgent opposition – if victorious in the presidential election promised later this year – would welcome an unfettered press any more warmly than previous regimes. Old, familiar arguments that the threat from North Korea makes unlimited democratic reform too dangerous may well be pressed into service by the next government. The danger is that South Koreans may wind up simply trading masters without gaining some of the most important liberties they fought for.

Officially, the Korean Constitution already guarantees press freedom. But after strong man Chun Doo Hwan came to power in 1980, he enacted a "basic press law" that licensed publishers and journalists. Some 700 journalists were fired from their jobs in a "purification" campaign. Seoul newspapers were barred from covering the provinces, leaving that to Yonhap, the official news agency. Each province was limited to a single newspaper. Two independent broadcasting companies were merged into the state-controlled Korea Broadcasting Service. The government owns controlling interest in the only competing network. As if that were not enough, the government set up "guidelines" whereby officials of the Ministry of Culture and Information told the media how and where stories must be played.

Printing the unthinkable

During the June turmoil, a few courageous newspapers declared themselves independent of the guidelines and reported what was really happening in the streets. Since then, the Korean press has grown increasingly bold, printing the previously unthinkable and publishing photos of once banned opposition leaders such as Kim Dae Jung, for years a virtual "unperson." In mid-July, some 100 television reporters staged the first media strike in Korea in seven years, demanding an end to government interference in news gathering, and reinstatement of their fired colleagues. Roh Tae Woo, Chun's candidate to succeed him, has endorsed a free press as one of the key points in his "democratization" plan.

All the same, I found during a recent visit to Seoul that the guidelines remain in force. A government press officer confirmed that he was still calling editors with "advice" on delicate stories.

Supporters of both Kim Dae Jung and his rival, Kim Young Sam, accuse reporters of being tools of the government when they report on the very real differences between the two. Kim Young Sam told me recently that he supports freedom of the press "as long as the reporters tell the truth" – presumably, the truth as he sees it. In language calculated to chill Korean newsrooms, Kim adds that any new government would probably want to issue its own guidelines to help the press do its job correctly. Advocates of a controlled press claim, for example, that in 1960, after the late Syngman Rhee was forced from power by student demonstrations, the press was accused of blackmailing politicians and spreading malicious rumors that were partly to blame for the rise of the late dictator Park Chung Hee.

Testing the limits

All of the building blocks appear to be in place for the emergence of a free press in South Korea. The times seems ripe to test the limits with, say, a press investigation of the 1980 Kwangju uprising to determine how many people were killed by the Army in this long-hushed-up event.

The media also would do well to examine the process by which the opposition selects one of the two Kims as its presidential candidate, as well as the election process itself.

For years it was said that, in the name of economic development and national security, South Koreans would have to wait for democracy. Now the challenge is to give the people credible sources of information so that they will be able to make rational decisions about their own future.

The writer of this article, Sanford J. Ungar, dean of the School of Communication at American University in Washington, D.C., recently visited South Korea under auspices of the International Human Rights Law Group.

Tour Information for DPRK (3)

—Wonsan and Mt. Kumgang—

(Continued from No. 1,348 issue)

Some of the most scenic parts of Korea are to be found in the east of the central part of the peninsula. Here, the world-famous Mt. Kumgang and the beautiful city of Wonsan, wait to be discovered by tourists.

Wonsan, a popular bathing resort, can be reached in four hours by bus from Pyongyang, using the expressway. Every year many tourists descend on Wonsan to take advantage of the magestic sandy beach at Songdowon, which covers an area of five million square metres.

The wide sandy beach is fringed by a green pine wood, which provides welcome shade during the scorching summer. The area also has an Oriental-style park which offers tourists an opportunity to spend some time boating or angling if they tire of swimming and lounging by the sea.

The Songdowon Hotel, located by the beach, has 128 well-furnished rooms, excellent sporting facilities and restaurants serving a wide selection of different styles of cuisine. Pleasure boats and other forms of transportation are available to tourists who stay there.

Another major attraction of the area is Mt. Kumgang, which attracts mountaineers and sightseers alike. Mt. Kumgang is one of the most famous mountains in Korea because of its varied and picturesque scenery, which includes lofty peaks like Piro Peak, Sajon Peak and Sujong Peak. There are also beautiful valleys, waterfalls which cascade like folds of white silk, fantastically shaped rocks and a plethora of plants which change according to the season.

The mountain was given its name, Mt. Kumgang (Diamond Mountain) in ancient times because it is a mass of scenic beauties and people felt it was comparable to the king of jewels. The mountain's beautiful scenery stems from its unusual geological structure. It is chiefly composed of granite and diorite. Subsequent years of weathering have produced mountain formations of all descriptions, including multifarious peaks, gorges, stone pillars and bluffs.

Onjong-ri, situated at the foot of Mt. Kumgang, is the gateway to the mountain and the beginning of the main sightseeing routes. Here, there are hot-spring spas, hotels and shops.

The Kumgangsan Hotel at Onjong-ri has 217 rooms and offers excellent views of the mountain. The restaurant offers traditional Korean food together with a variety of international dishes.

Mt. Kumgang is divided into three parts, Inner Kumgang, Outer Kumgang and Coastal Kumgang, according to its regional features.

Inner Kumgang is often compared to a woman's beauty because Manpok and other valleys provide a gentle view. On the other hand, Outer Kumgang is often referred to as having manly qualities because of the many peaks, ravines and waterfalls. The scenery of Coastal Kumgang is beautiful. Especially, around Samil Lake. Legend has it that a visiting king was so enchanted by the place that he extended his stay there to enjoy the scenery.

Some of the scenic highlights of Mt. Kumgang are: Piro Peak, Manpok, Myongongdae and Paektap Valleys on Inner Kumgang; Manmulsang and Kuryong Ponds, Upper Paldam Pool, Sujong Peak, Okryu Valley, Hanha Stream and Sibi Falls on Outer Kumgang; and Coastal Manmulsang, Kumgang Gate and Samil Lagoon in Coastal Kumgang.

The Manmulsang section is highly recommended for tourists because of the fascinating array of sights, which include unusually shaped rocks, sheer cliffs and lofty peaks.

Of particular interest to tourists are the Samson Rocks. These are reached by the route towards Sujong and Pari Peaks along the valley via Hanha Brook. On this route you will be confronted by Kwimyon or Ogre Faced rocks and beside it the three Samson Rocks soar skyhigh.

From Samson Rocks the path leads to Hanul Gate, along a cliff and through a valley. After passing the peak, tourists can have a charming view of Chonson Rock enveloped in mist.

The Kuryong (Nine-Dragon) Falls in the Kuryong Valley on Outer Kumgang, is one of Korea's three biggest waterfalls, with a plunge of 74 metres. The force of the waterfall has eroded a 13 metres deep pool at its base and this is called Kuryong Pond. Kuryongdae, from where the water cascades, is a sheer granite precipice.

The waterfall is a truly inspiring sight with its pearl like sprays, fast flowing river, arching rainbow and deafening roar.

Upper Paldam Pool lies in the valley below Kuryong, looking like string of pearls because eight ponds of crystal clear water are linked by the river. It is said that "eight heavenly angels" (fairies have nothing to do with heaven) came down to bathe here and created this beautiful spot.

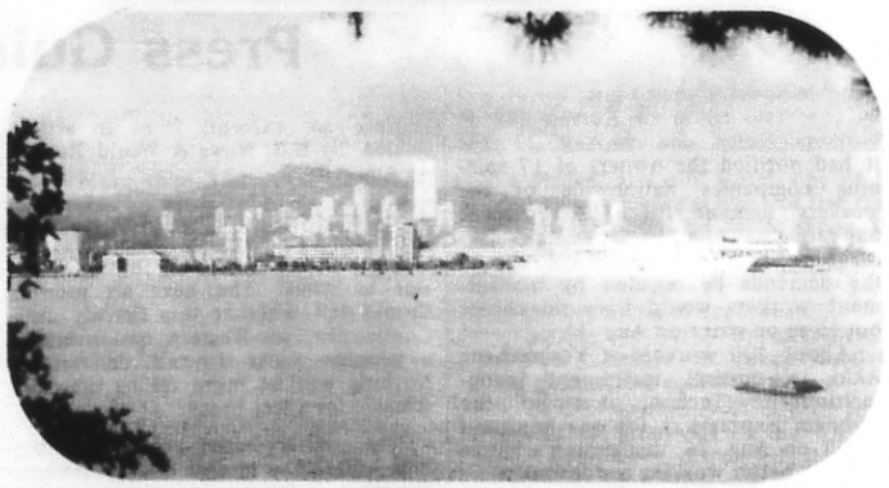
From here, the three pine capped precipices surrounding the waterfall and the sheer cliffs look beautiful.

Streams threading through the densely wooded valleys of Mt. Kumgang are noted for their limpidness and their medical qualities which result from the

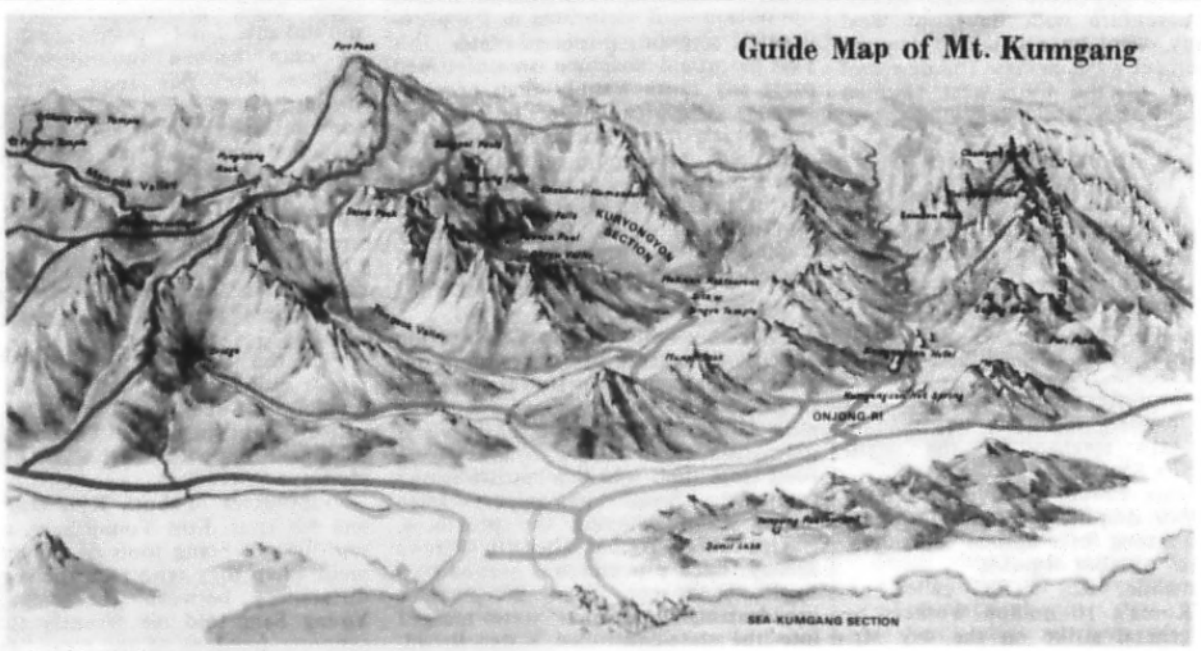
(Continued on page 7)

Samson Rocks

◀ Podok Hermitage



▼ Wonsan, a port city of the DPRK on the east coast.



S. Korean Junta Rapped For Worker's Death at Meeting Here

Attendants of the central meeting to denounce the south Korean junta chanted slogans to support south Korean workers struggle.

A meeting was held on Aug. 26, at the Korean Publishing House in Tokyo to denounce the Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo junta for being responsible for the death of a south Korean worker.

Lee Sok Kyu, 21, a ship yard worker for Daewoo Shipbuilding and Machinery Ltd., at Koje Island, was hit by a tear gas shell during a clash with police on Aug. 22.

He was the first person killed in the month of labor unrest.

The meeting held in Tokyo, was attended by First Vice Chairman Li Jin Gyu, other vice chairmen of Chongryun, Chongryun officials and Korean compatriots.

Vice Chairman So Man Sul, touching upon the death of south Korean worker Lee Sok Kyu, accused the military junta of unfairly cracking down on the growing south Korean workers' protest.

In his report he extended the solidarity of resident Koreans to the south Korean workers and the anti-U.S., anti-fascist campaigns for democracy of the south Korean people.

Koreans Petition Tokyo Governor

Representatives of Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan), from the Tokyo Prefectural Head Office, handed a petition addressed to governor of Tokyo, to a deputy governor on Aug. 21, demanding fundamental amendment to the Alien Registration Law.

The petition pointed out that the proposed "bill for partial amendment to the Alien Registration Law" falls far short from "lessening the burden" on resident foreigners including Korean nationals. Instead it aims at strengthening controls, particularly on resident Koreans.

The petition urged that the "proposed bill" be withdrawn and a fundamental revision to the Alien Registration Law be carried out to reflect International Human Rights Covenants and the historical circumstances of resident Koreans.

Li Yong Fun and Yun Mi Su, students of the Tokyo Korean Junior and Senior High Schools read a letter demanding a basic revision to the law.

Students of the Tokyo Korean Junior and Senior High School made a petition to revise the Alien Registration Law to deputy governor of Tokyo on Aug. 21.

Chongryun Protests Police on Unwarranted Arrest of Korean

A Korean scaffolding man living in Tsuchiura City, Ibaragi Prefecture was unwarrantedly arrested, assaulted and detained, on the ground of violating the "Road Traffic Act."

The fact was disclosed recently and representatives of the Chongryun Ibaragi Prefectural Head Office lodged a protest on Aug. 13 against the Insei Police Station of Chiba Prefecture on the case and accused to policemen for violence to the Korean.

Earlier on July 29, Kwon Ho Sa, 42, a scaffolding man, was crossed over the stop line at an intersection as he was unable to see a stop signal hindered by a dump truck in front of his.

When he was ordered to stop by policemen at the intersection, Mr. Kwon presented his driver's license together with his alien registration card.

The policemen ordered him to sign on a sheet of paper which said he violated the "Road Traffic Act."

Mr. Kwon explained the situation and asked to take this into consideration.

The policemen shouted loudly, "If you refuse to sign, you are arrested." As Mr. Kwon thought that it would take time to settle the matter, he tried to put on a side brake. Then the policeman took him out from the car, saying, "You attempted to flee," and escorted him in handcuffs to the Insei Police Station.

On their way to the police station, the policeman sitting besides Kwon kicked at Mr. Kwon's chest and leg with his leather shoes.

Mr. Kwon tried to avoid his kick and was wounded in his right wrist.

According to a diagnosis by the Insei Hospital, Mr. Kwon suffered a bruise on his left breast and has his right hand joint sprained. His injuries would take four days to heal completely.

After he was taken to the police station, he was unrightfully detained for 24 hours.

It is clear that Mr. Kwon had no "intention to flee" in the light of the situation that he presented his driver's license to the policeman. Nevertheless, the policeman unwarrantedly arrested and assaulted him.

Representatives of the Chongryun Ibaragi Prefectural Head Office and Mr. Kwon on Aug. 13 visited the Chiba Prosecutor office together with a Japanese lawyer and charged those two policemen with abuse of their official rights and infliction of assault and body injuries.

On the other hand, they lodged a strong protest against the Insei Police Station and demanded an apology to Mr. Kwon; severe punishment of the two policemen; and appropriate measures to prevent recurrence of such a case.

Japanese Officials Demand Revision to "Alien Registration Law"

The Osaka Prefecture Mayors' Committee and the Committee of Headmen of Towns and Villages visited the immigration bureau on Aug. 19 and submitted petitions to Endo Kaname, the minister of justice, demanding a fundamental revision to the Alien Registration Law.

The petition reads in part:

From the point of view of respecting the human rights of resident foreigners, we demand the abolition of the fingerprinting obligation and the obligation of carrying an alien registration card at all times, along with an easing of the penalties for violating this law.

However, the present bill is far from what we have demanded.

In order to respect the human rights of resident foreigners and remove this burden from them, we again ask for a reexamination of the fundamental provisions and a revision to the Alien Registration Law.

Meeting

About 300 Japanese people gathered at Hibiya park in Tokyo on Aug. 21 to oppose the "bill for a partial amendment."

The gathering was attended by people who have been opposing the bill all over Japan. After the gathering they marched to the Diet building.

Sit-in Campaign

In protest against the "bill for an amendment to the Alien Registration Law" submitted to the present extraordinary Diet session, a Japanese youth continued his sit-in, which has been going on since July 25 in Mitaka City, Tokyo.

Mr. Sato Kazuki issued a statement on Aug. 20 saying he would continue his protest indefinitely until the bill is cancelled and the points of law which violate human rights fundamentally revised.

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minerals and other elements contained in them.

Around the waterfall, a suspended bridge, rest places and other facilities have been provided, so tourists can linger comfortably as they enjoy the various sights.

From here, tourists can view the whole of Mt. Kumgang and its unique features.

For those interested in Korean culture, there are a plenty of historic relics on the mountain.

The Pyohun Temple, a valuable cultural treasure, was built in 670 A.D. and is a fine example of Korean architecture during that period.

In addition, there is the Chongyang Temple, originally built in 600 A.D. and reconstructed during the Li Dynasty. Then there is Podok Hermitage, which curiously has been erected on a rock. There are a host of other historical relics which will give the visitor an insight into ancient Korean civilization.

Wonsan and Mt. Kumgang are high on the list of places that the DPRK has developed for tourism. They now have all the facilities and comforts that tourists would expect to find in an international resort and will leave the visitor with a lasting impression of Korea's beauty, friendliness and charm.

Labor Protests Result of Denial of Labor Rights

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following comment was contributed by Mr. Felice D. Gaer, executive director of the New York-based International League for Human Rights, to The New York Times. The comment was reprinted by International Herald Tribune dated Aug. 20.

New York – The labor protests sweeping south Korea, including the occupation this week of Hyundai factories by 20,000 workers, are the result of years of denial of labor rights. It is time Seoul began to guarantee these basic standards.

Emboldened by President Chun Doo Hwan's political concessions last month, workers in every economic sector have begun to demand labor rights. Yet for years, the Chun government has actively collaborated in repressing workers. Laws effectively limit union formation, prevent strikes and localize conflicts. Enterprises that have a "serious impact on the national economy" are exempted from constitutional guarantees of the rights to organize and bargain collectively.

The average work week, 50 hours, is longer than that in any other country, according to the International Labor Organization. In the garment industries, it is often 90 hours. Weekly wages, ranging from $30 to $80, are the lowest in 20 industrial countries surveyed in February by the U.S. Labor Department. Workers suffer the highest accident rate of any industrial country. Few unions have been allowed to form, and any that are not affiliated with the government-backed Federation of Korean Trade Unions have been dissolved. Government-supported thugs have sent hundreds of workers to hospitals. Labor demonstrators, often convicted in one-minute trials, comprise about half of all political prisoners. Many of them are beaten, given electric shocks or tortured with pepper water. Although the security forces have shown uncharacteristic restraint during recent strikes, no laws have been changed, and the apparatus of repression stands ready.

Despite promises of reform from President Chun and Roh Tae Woo, the ruling party's candidate to succeed him, democratic advocates continue to be sent to jail. The government has also shown bad faith by planning increases in its riot police force and failing to release all political prisoners. President Chun proposed this week that labor disputes be settled without government intervention. That is not sufficient. Left unchecked, management will continue to send thugs to abuse demonstrators and will illegally fire and blacklist organizers.

South Korea's workers need protection. The government should change its laws to permit unions to form and join national federations. It should also establish minimum wage and hour standards and safe working conditions. Other countries could encourage Seoul to proceed with its long-promised application to join the International Labor Organization. The United States should remind Seoul that our laws stipulate that our trading partners comply with internationally recognized labor rights. Toward that end, the U.S. Trade Representative should revoke south Korea's trade privileges but continue to keep its labor practices under review.

President Chun has raised hopes for democratic changes, including protection of labor and human rights. When Americans, and others, consider buying south Korean goods, they should keep in mind the conditions under which they are produced.

EDITORIAL

September Crisis in Seoul

Now it's the workers' turn. Strikes for higher wages, better working conditions and free, democratic unions have erupted at nearly 2,000 workplaces across south Korea since Roh Tae Woo published his "eight-point proposal" on June 29.

It is the natural course of events that workers have taken action to demand their rights. Strikes have been banned in south Korea for decades. Although blue-collar workers have the longest working week in the world (54.4 hours), they receive the lowest wages (30 to 80 dollars a week). In addition, they have not been allowed to organize independent and democratic unions.

If workers join forces with students, farmers and middle-class Koreans, the alliance could trigger yet another wave of protests that the Chun junta may find difficult to control.

Chun knows very well that the alliance of workers, students and middle-class Koreans could present the most serious threat to his survival.

For this reason the south Korean government has pressured management to meet workers' demands to a certain extent.

However, labour-management disputes do not seem to have waned and there are strong signs of a worker-student alliance.

On Aug. 23, a joint meeting of students and workers was held on the campus of Seoul's Yonsei University. The death of Lee Sok Kyu, a 21-year-old worker from a Daewoo Shipbuilding and Heavy Machinery yard, may serve as the rallying point for the alliance.

In September students return to their campuses to continue their struggle for democracy.

The alliance of workers, students, farmers and middle-class Koreans will mean the end to military dictatorship. Watch south Korea in September.

N-S Talks Proposal

(Continued from page 1)

of Pyongyang since Washington and Seoul virtually rejected its earlier proposal to have north-south foreign ministers' talks with U.S. participation, insisting on "talks between the parties concerned."

The presence of some 43,000 U.S. troops and more than 1,000 nuclear weapons in south Korea, however, is the major cause of aggravating tension in that region and directly related to the disarmament question. This has been Pyongyang's consistent stand.

Pyongyang's proposal to open preliminary talks between the north and the south first – without U.S. participation – reflects the pressing need to eliminate the acute danger of nuclear war breaking out and realize national reconciliation.

The statement said:

More than a month has already passed since the government of the DPRK put forward a new proposal for massive arms reduction to ease the tensions on the Korean Peninsula and open a bright prospect for its peaceful reunification.

We proposed to open north-south foreign ministers' talks with the participation of the U.S. secretary of state to put into effect the new proposal for arms cut and to hold preliminary talks of vice-minister level at Panmunjon toward the end of August or at an agreed date to accelerate it.

However, Washington and Seoul have not affirmatively responded to our proposal for arms reduction, continuously pursuing the line of confrontation and division.

In their Aug. 13 statement of a foreign ministry spokesman the south Korean authorities opposed the opening of the north-south foreign ministers' talks with the participation of the United States, talking about "national self-determination", raised again the proposal for north-south foreign ministers' talks only to discuss such issues as "simultaneous entry into the U.N." and "cross recognition" and gave no answer to our proposal for preliminary talks.

This is a very insincere act.

To ease the tensions prevailing on the Korean Peninsula and create a favourable climate for its peaceful reunification, it is imperative to put into effect arms reduction, first of all.

It is clear to everyone that as the question of arms cut is not a mere internal affair of the nation but it is directly related to the United States, talks for the discussion of the arms reduction issue should be attended by the foreign ministers of the north and the south as well as the U.S. secretary of state.

This is why we repeatedly hold that the north-south foreign ministers' talks with the participation of the U.S. secretary of state should be held and the preliminary talks of vice-minister level be opened without delay to ensure the former talks successfully.

We propose to begin with the bilateral preliminary talks between us and south Korea first if the United States and south Korean authorities consider it is inconvenient at present to hold these preliminary talks participated in by the north and the south and the United States as well, though it is best in essence.

From this point of view we propose to have the preliminary talks at Panmunjom at 10 hours of forthcoming Sep. 23 and, to this end, our side will send a four-five member delegation headed by man of vice-minister level.

Arms Cut Offer Supported

(Continued from page 1)

great contribution to security on the Asian Continent.

Meanwhile, Ranji Chandisingh, general secretary of the People's National Congress of Guyana and vice president, on Aug. 19 supported "as most fair and aboveboard" the proposal clarified in the July 23 government statement of the DPRK that large-scale arms reduction be carried out to ease the tensions on the Korean Peninsula and promote its peaceful reunification, when he met a delegation of the WPK headed by Son Song Pil, member of the WPK Central Committee and vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly.

Press statements supporting the arms reduction proposal of Pyongyang were issued by:

Mustapha Jaber, director of the board of the International Institute of the Juche Idea; Kassim Mpenda, chairman of the Tanzanian Journalists Association; and Jean Suret-Canale, president of the France-Korea Friendship Association; Sulleiman Al Hadidi, deputy secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Union; Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization; Nicaraguan Peace Committee; Nepal World Peace Committee and National Press Club of Nepal.

The DPRK's disarmament proposal was also supported by:

Left-Wing Socialist Party of Denmark; Sweden-Korea Friendship Association; Nordic Cooperation Committee for Friendship and Solidarity with the Korean People; Peruvian Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea; Peru-Korea Institute of Culture and Friendship; Costa Rican Popular Force; Lebanese Communist Party; and Liberation Movement of Sao Tome and Principe.

Pan-American Confab

(Continued from page 1)

been turned into the biggest nuclear forward base and a hotbed of nuclear war in the Far East by the U.S., and that a grave threat is being created to the independence, sovereignty and security of many countries in Asia by the moves to form a U.S.-Japan-south Korea triangular military alliance, the appeal said that Korea would be turned into a nuclear-free, peace zone and a buffer zone if the DPRK's new disarmament proposal was carried into practice to drastically reduce the armed forces in the north and the south of Korea, eliminate foreign military bases and troops and turn the Demilitarized Zone into a peace corridor.

The appeal also said, "We are of the opinion that the 24th Olympic Games should not be used for insidious political purposes but be made to contribute to peace and detente on the Korean Peninsula and to the cause of Korea's reunification, and the Games should be co-hosted by the north and the south of Korea."

At the conference, letters to the U.N. secretary-general, the U.S. government and Congress were adopted.

The letter to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar demanded that the next session of the U.N. General Assembly should bring up and discuss again the question of relaxing the tension on the Korean Peninsula and realizing the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

It said the question of divided Korea should be settled on the basis of absolute respect for the will of the Korean people and a phased arms reduction by the north and the south should be put into effect on the basis of the proposal of the DPRK.

The letter to the U.S. government and Congress blamed Washington for aggravating tension on the Korean Peninsula by deploying large numbers of modernly-equipped military personnel and nuclear weapons and staging such large-scale war exercises as the Team Spirit maneuvers in south Korea.

It urged Washington to positively respond to the arms reduction proposal of Pyongyang if it is really interested in detente and peace.

It further said that the U.S. must stop supporting the south Korean military dictatorial regime which is violating human rights and should no longer bar the demands of the people for independence, democracy and reunification by interfering in the internal affairs of south Korea.

At the conference, a letter to the south Korean people, expressing solidarity with them in the struggle against the Chun Doo Hwan dictatorship and for democracy, was also adopted.

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